

The South African Health Care System: giving voice to the people through the People's Voice Survey

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07th June 2023

International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies



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Re-orientation of the South African Health System

Financing of current health system



Tax:
43% of funds

84% of population for primary care, inpatient & specialist care



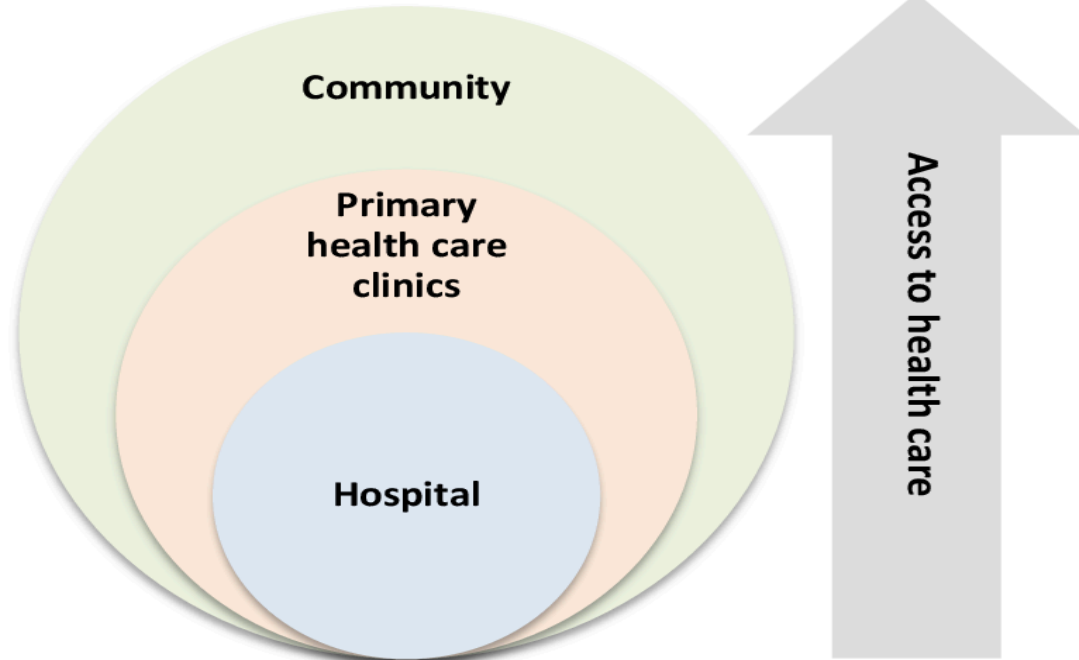
Out-of-pocket:

13% of funds
(16% uninsured use private GP & pharmacy on OOP basis)



Private medical insurance schemes:

44% of funds
16% of population



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Table 1: Key diagnostic findings of the South African Lancet Commission, 2019

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Finding 1 | Gaps in ethical leadership, management and governance contribute to poor quality of care |
| Finding 2 | Poor quality of care costs lives |
| Finding 3 | Malpractice cases and medical litigation are threats to the realisation of the right to health care in South Africa |
| Finding 4 | The human resources for health (HRH) crisis will undermine the achievement of high-quality universal health coverage |
| Finding 5 | Health information system gaps constrain the country's ability to measure or monitor quality and its improvements |
| Finding 6 | There is fragmentation and limited impact of quality-of-care initiatives |

Source: South African Lancet National Commission; 2019.⁸



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Lancet Global Health Commission on High Quality Health Systems



Health systems are for people. A **high quality health** system optimizes health in a given context by

- **consistently** delivering care that improves or maintains health,
- being **valued and trusted by all** people,
- **responding** to changing population needs.



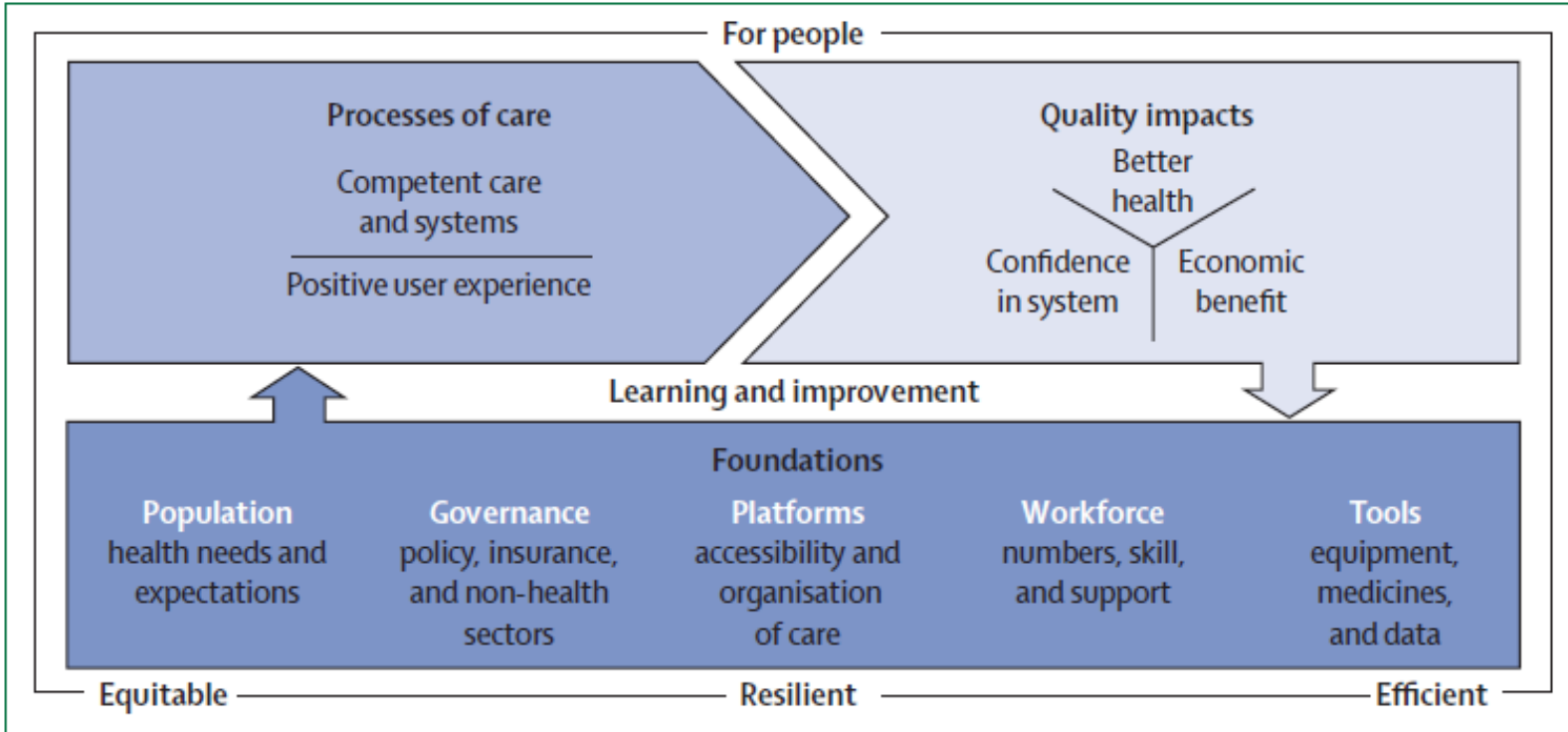
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High quality health system framework



High-quality health systems

- are for people
- equitable, resilient & efficient

Kruk et al., (2018). High-quality health systems in the Sustainable Development Goals era: time for a revolution. The Lancet. Global health, 6(11), e1196–e1252. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X\(18\)30386-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(18)30386-3)



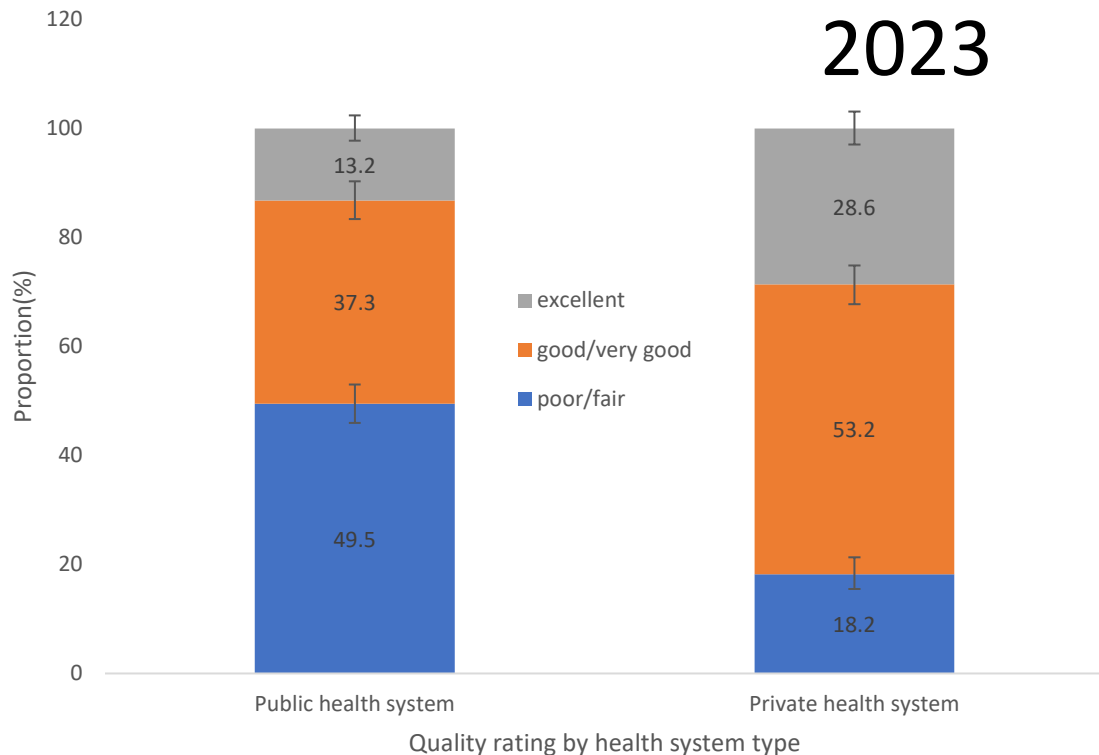
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Overall health system assessment, PVS South Africa



Respondents rated the quality of the private healthcare system better than the public health system. Half of the sample [49.5%, 95% CI 46.0-53.0, N=2033] rated the public health system as poor/fair, whereas 18.2% [95% CI 15.5-21.3, N=2004] rated the private health system as poor/fair.



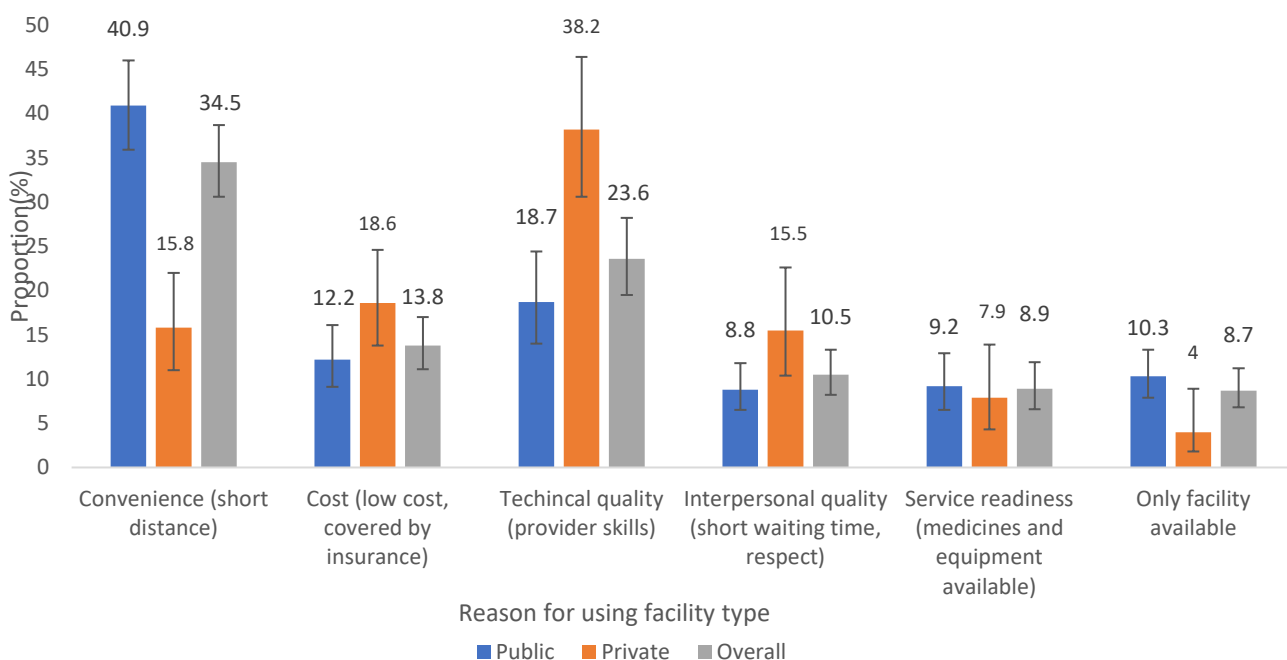
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Health system utilisation: reasons for using public or private



Overall, the main reasons were convenience [34.5%, 95% CI 30.6-38.7], technical quality [23.6, 19%, 95% CI 19.5-28.2], and cost (low cost, covered by medical aid) [13.8%, 95% CI 11.1-17.0]. The reasons provided by private health care users differed significantly from those for public healthcare (p<0.001)



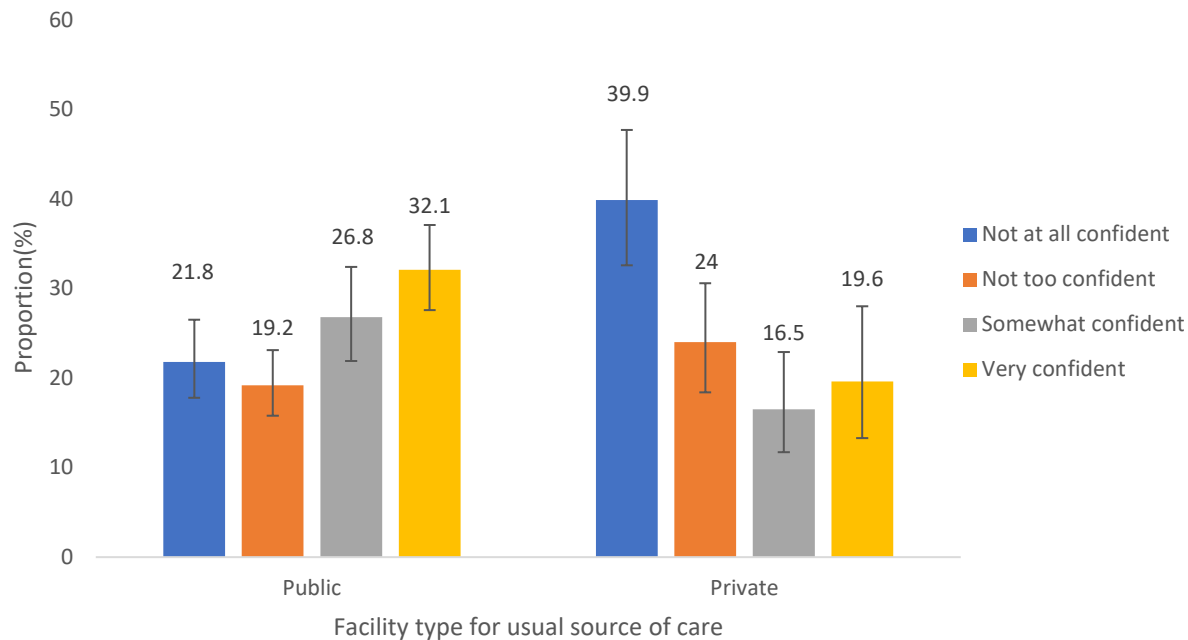
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Confidence that the government considers public opinion when making decisions about the healthcare system, PVS South Africa 2023



- Overall 29.2% [95% CI 26.1-32.5] of respondents were confident. ($P < 0.001$)
- Among public healthcare sector users, nearly two-thirds [32.1%, 95% CI 27.6-37.1] of respondents were very confident while a further one-fifth [21.8%, 95% CI 17.8-26.5] were not at all confident.
- Among private healthcare sector users, nearly two-fifths [39.9%, 95% CI 32.6-47.7] of respondents were not at all confident.



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Thank you – Siyabonga – Re a Leboga



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UCSF Institute for
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We acknowledge the
Health Resources &
Services Administration
(HRSA) for their support

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